

**In the Claims**

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please amend claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 55 as noted below. Please cancel claims 2, 5, 7, 12, 15, 17, 53-54, 56, and 58-61. Please add new claims 62-67.

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for characterizing an apparently healthy individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, comprising:

obtaining a level of [[a marker of systemic inflammation]] C-reactive protein in the individual, and if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl of blood or higher, then said individual has an increased risk of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications.

[[comparing the level of the marker to a predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications, and

characterizing the individual's risk profile of developing a future diabetes based upon the level of the marker in comparison to the predetermined value, wherein the marker of systemic inflammation is C-reactive protein.]]

2-5. Canceled.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[4]], wherein the [[predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications]] level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood or higher.

7-10. Canceled.

11. (Currently amended) A method for characterizing an individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or diabetic complications, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein [[a marker of systemic inflammation]] in the individual, [[comparing the level of the marker of systemic inflammation to a first predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications to]] wherein a level of C-reactive protein about 0.30 mg/dl of blood or higher establishes a first risk value,

obtaining a level of a glycosylated hemoglobin in the individual,

comparing the level of the glycosylated hemoglobin to a second predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications to establish a second risk value, and

characterizing the individual's risk profile of developing diabetes or diabetic complications based upon the combination of the first risk value and the second risk value, wherein the combination of the first risk value and second risk value establishes a third risk value different from said first and second risk values [[, wherein the marker of systemic inflammation is C-reactive protein]].

12-15. Canceled.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[14]] 11, wherein the [[first predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications]] level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood.

17-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently amended) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of diabetes or reducing the risk of diabetic complications, the agent selected from the group consisting of insulin, a hypoglycemic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a lipid lowering agent, a calcium channel blocker, a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker, a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, and an angiotensin system inhibitor, comprising:

obtaining a level of [[a marker of systemic inflammation]] C-reactive protein in the individual, and

[[comparing the level of the marker to a predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications, wherein the level of the marker of systemic inflammation in comparison to the predetermined value is indicative of whether the]] if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl of blood or higher, then said individual will benefit from treatment with said agents.

22-51. Canceled.

52. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a hypoglycemic agent.

53-54. Canceled.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[53]] 21, wherein the [[predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or diabetic complications]] level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL of blood or higher.

56. Canceled.

57. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an insulin.

58-61. Cancelled.

62. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an anti-inflammatory agent.

63. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a lipid lowering agent.

64. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a calcium channel blocker.

65. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker.

66. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor.

67. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an angiotensin system inhibitor.